GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
TRIBAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

STARRED QUESTION NO:2
ANSWERED ON:30.11.2015
Welfare Schemes for Tribals
Sreeramulu Shri B.

Will the Minister of TRIBAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of various social welfare schemes under implementation in the tribal areas of the country;

(b) whether the cases of various diseases including water borne diseases have increased in the tribal areas over a period of time;

(c) if so, the details thereof disease-wise during the last three years and the current year, State/UT-wise and the reasons therefor; and

(d) the remedial measures taken by the Government for the prevention of such diseases in the tribal areas?

Answer

ANSWER
MINISTER OF TRIBAL AFFAIRS
(SHRI JUAL ORAM)

A Statement is laid on the Table of the House.
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Statement referred to in reply to parts (a) to (d) of the Lok Sabha Starred Question No.*2 for answer on 30.11.2015 by Shri B. Sriramulu, MP

(a): The Central and State Governments have been taking various initiatives for socio-economic development of tribal population of the country. This includes Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) strategy implemented since 1974-1975. The purpose of the strategy is to channelize the flow of funds for speedier development of the Scheduled Tribes. The Central Ministries/Departments are also mandated by the erstwhile Planning Commission along with the States/UTs to carve out certain percentage of funds under the Centrally sponsored / Central Sector / States / UT Schemes for TSP. The Programmes/Schemes implemented by the Ministry of Tribal Affairs for the welfare of Scheduled Tribes are at Annexure I.

(b) to (d): The periodicity of occurrence of specific disease including water born disease is not being centrally maintained in the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Government of India initiated Integrated Disease Surveillance Programme (IDSP) in 2004 in all States/UTs with the objective to detect and respond to disease outbreaks due to epidemic prone diseases. Under IDSP, weekly data on total number of cases for epidemic prone diseases including Water borne Diseases is collected at District level. This data gives information on the disease trends and seasonality of diseases. Whenever there is a rising trend of illnesses in any area, it is investigated by the Rapid Response Teams (RRT) to diagnose and control the outbreak.

Consumption of contaminated drinking water can cause diseases such as Acute Diarrheal Diseases, Enteric Fever (Typhoid), Cholera, Viral Hepatitis and Acute Encephalitis Syndrome.

Provision of safe drinking water is the main strategy to control diseases caused by drinking of contaminated water. Rural water supply is a State subject. Government of India supplements the efforts of the States by providing technical and financial assistance under the centrally sponsored National Rural Drinking Water supply Programme (NRDWP) for providing safe and adequate drinking water supply facilities in rural areas of the country. Further, 5% of NRDWP Funds are earmarked and allocated to those States facing problems of chemical contamination in drinking water. Up to 67% of the NRDWP fund allocated to States can be utilized for tackling water quality problems in rural areas. In addition, Government of India provides 3% NRDWP funds on 100% Central assistance basis to States for water quality monitoring and surveillance , which inter alia include taking up works relating to setting up of new or up gradation of district/sub-district water quality testing laboratories, providing chemicals and consumables to laboratories, providing field test kits/refills to Gram Panchayats etc.

In addition, Government of India started the National Programme for Prevention and Control of Fluorosis (NPPCF) in the 11th Five Year Plan. The important components of the programme are surveillance of fluorosis in the community, capacity building in the form of training and manpower support, establishment of diagnostic facilities, management of fluorosis cases including treatment, surgery, rehabilitation, and health education.

Further, National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), Delhi, provides technical assistance to State/UT Governments on prevention and control of water borne diseases in carrying out investigation of outbreaks of such diseases under Integrated Disease Surveillance Program (IDSP). At the National level, NCDC also coordinates laboratory support for outbreak investigations, besides conducting regular training courses for development of trained manpower.

In addition, to check water borne diseases following steps have been taken:

i) 'Swatch Bharath' Mission for cleanliness and sanitation including construction and use of toilets;
ii) Collection, segregation and disposal of waste and treatment to check pollution of water bodies, etc.;
iii) Immunization
iv) Advocating simple oral rehydration therapy for treatment, etc.

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